

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Approved For Release 2003/11/19 : CIA-RDP54-00216A000100040013-1

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

25X1

TO : [redacted]  
 Room 1301 "I" Bldg.

FROM : [redacted] FDD

SUBJECT: Comments on USSR Area Program

DATE: 25 September 1952

Attached are the comments of some members of the [redacted]  
 [redacted] they attended only the second half of the USSR  
 area program of the summer 1952 held at FDD. Since their area of  
 interest is Eastern Europe, such comments as relate to the greater  
 value of an Eastern Europe programs obviously should be discounted  
 in so far as they are adversely critical. Some of the questions are  
 not as applicable to this group as to a group whose area of concentration  
 is the USSR.

25X1

My own comments are based on the approximately ten lectures I  
 attended. The whole idea of area programs, as long as they are conducted  
 by recognized and reputable scholars of the area, is an excellent one,  
 and I wish to congratulate your office on providing such. The answers  
 to many of your questions (i.e. 1, 3a, b, d) depend on uncontrollable  
 variables, such as the states of knowledge of the trainees, personal  
 preferences as to methods, and the idiosyncrasies and pedagogical  
 predilections of the instructors. However, I think there is little  
 question that such lectures contribute more or less positively to  
 our analysts' effectiveness.

In the matter of time, I estimate that the length of the course  
 and the length of each lecture is the maximum which should be allowed.

In reference to the balance between lecture and discussion,  
 opportunity should be given for discussion, but the length and content  
 of discussion should be left to the discretion of the instructor, who  
 would presumably base his control of it on its relevance and relative  
 importance.

I join the unanimous opinion that students not be required to do  
 collateral reading or prepare papers because of the exorbitant amount  
 of time such work would require. However, I second [redacted]  
 comment that a bibliography would be very helpful, though I shouldn't  
 limit the number or require that it be mimeographed. The value of a  
 bibliography would be enhanced if the instructor gave his personal  
 comments on each work as to its pertinence, its peculiar worth, its  
 weaknesses, etc.

25X1

I believe that [redacted] comment (among the attached) that  
 the recipients of instruction give their suggestions as to what the  
 content and emphasis of the lectures should be is an excellent one.  
 Such suggestions might help the Office of Training in selecting the  
 instructor, and the instructor could take note of the main interests

25X1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Approved For Release 2003/11/19 : CIA-RDP54-00216A000100040013-1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Approved For Release 2003/11/19 : CIA-RDP54-00216A000100040013-1

of his students and at his discretion formulate his lecture series more or less along those lines, depending on his own degree of competence in the fields of emphasis desired by the students.



25X1

- 2 -

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Approved For Release 2003/11/19 : CIA-RDP54-00216A000100040013-1